

present law, gain from the sale of virtually every capital asset—except horses—qualifies for capital gain treatment once it has been held for one year. The holding period for horses, however, is two years. We think this unfair to an important industry.

There is no reason to treat horses differently than other capital assets. The horse industry provides sport, recreation and entertainment for millions. This industry has an economic impact on the U.S. economy of \$112 billion and supports 1.4 million jobs. It pays \$1.9 billion in taxes to all levels of government. In my state of Illinois the horse industry has an economic impact of \$3.8 billion and supports 50,000 jobs. However, the racing and breeding industry has struggled over recent years because of the proliferation of various gaming venues. As a result, race tracks have not been able to pay purses large enough to cover the expense of racing a horse. Making the capital gains holding shorter will give some help to these owners who are suffering because purses are too low.

This provision was apparently put in the tax code in 1969 as an anti-tax shelter provision. Since then there have been numerous changes in the tax laws, in particular the passive loss limitations, which have eliminated virtually all so-called "tax shelters." This tax provision has discriminated against Illinoisans and others for long enough. Whatever the rationale was for making the holding period for horses different, it has outlived its usefulness.

It is time to change the tax laws in this area. I welcome other members to join us in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

EXPANDING CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, one out of every seven children is growing up without health insurance. These 11.6 million children—including 76,000 in my home state of Minnesota—are less likely to get preventive care to keep them healthy, or see a doctor when they get sick. This lack of health insurance coverage can have lasting effects. For example, children whose ear infections go undiagnosed and untreated can suffer from permanent hearing loss.

Sadly there are signs that the prognosis for the health of America's children is getting worse. The percentage of children covered by private insurance has declined from 71.5% in 1990 to 67% in 1997. Additionally, premium costs for family coverage are on the rise, placing health insurance beyond the reach of an increasing number of working families.

It is time for all of us to commit to solving this problem. Today, I am introducing two bills that would move us in the direction of a comprehensive solution.

First, I am introducing the Children's Health Coverage Improvement Act of 1999. This legislation would make children's-only policies widely available at group rates to employees who are already covered by a group policy.

Federally regulated self-insured health plans would be required to offer these policies as one of the options available to covered employees.

Many low-income working families simply cannot find room in the family budget to pay the increasingly large premiums for family policies. Moreover, many financially-strapped single parents cannot afford to pay family premiums designed to cover two adults plus children. Kids-only policies could provide an answer for these hard-working and hard-pressed families.

This legislation is sensitive to employers' concerns that they cannot assume further insurance costs. Instead of requiring an employer to shoulder a specified portion of insurance costs, this bill allows the dynamics of the group insurance market to create affordable children's-only policies for the dependents of group health plan beneficiaries.

I am also introducing a second bill to enhance the well-being of federal employees' children. This legislation would allow enrollees in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) to purchase an employee and children-only benefit option at a lower cost than current family coverage options.

My bill would help those federal employees who, because of cost, defer purchasing family health coverage. The bill authorizes the Office of Personnel Management to offer group-rated employee and children only coverage to enrollees of the FEHBP.

There is a real need for a health insurance product that better addresses the needs of low-income and non-traditional families than family policies that are currently available. Group-rated employee and children-only policies would help meet this unfilled need.

Shoring up the decline in employer-sponsored health care is one way to help get kids insured. America's 11,600,000 uninsured children need help. It's time for all of us—in the private and public sector—to pitch in and make sure they get it.

IN HONOR OF DEAN PAUL O'CONNOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Dublin, National University of Ireland, The Honorable Paul O'Connor. Dean O'Connor is the guest of honor at the twentieth annual Donahue & Scanlon St. Patrick's Day Party.

Dean O'Connor received primary and post-graduate degrees in law at University College Dublin, the largest law school in Ireland, before qualifying at the Irish Bar in 1976. He was then awarded a fellowship to study at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated with a Masters in 1978. After practicing briefly in Philadelphia, he returned to his alma mater to take up his first teaching post. Dean O'Connor specializes in the subjects of Criminal Law, Evidence, and Family Law, and he is widely published in each of these areas. In

1986, he resumed his academic acquaintance with the United States as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Michigan where he studied comparative matrimonial property regimes.

Dean O'Connor has guest lectured in Europe, the United States and Australia. He is a board member of both the Irish Centre for Commercial Law Studies, and the leading Irish law journal, The Irish Jurist. He is also currently a member of the Solicitors profession's Future of the Legal Profession Committee.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of Dean Paul O'Connor.

HONORING "MR. HOMES ASSOCIATION"

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness to remember and honor a legendary person from my district, Mr. Harry Brandel, Jr. Mr. Brandel died last week after a long fight with cancer.

He was known as "Mr. Homes Association" because he led the Palos Verdes Homes Association for more than three decades. He relinquished this position only when forced to by poor health.

Under Harry's leadership, the community established strict development standards, helping to preserve its extraordinary beauty, low density, and high quality residential ambience. Harry leaves behind a legacy of beauty and protection that will outlast many generations.

Harry also left his footprint on the city's political life. He was known as a skilled politician, brokering consensus on many controversial development issues. He could do this with his low-key approach and his ability to be friends with his adversaries. This past January, Harry was honored by the city council as the community's longest serving public official. From one public official to another, it is a fitting remembrance, and one to which we should all aspire.

DIRECT CHECK FOR EDUCATION ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, when I talk with parents, teachers principals and school administrators throughout Southern Missouri, it becomes very clear that much needs to be done to strengthen our local school systems. Aging facilities, increasing class sizes, and tight funding are placing a tremendous strain on the quality of education available for our children. And no two school districts are alike in their specific needs. Whether it's building new classrooms, repairing a hole in the gymnasium roof, hiring more teachers, or acquiring new computers or test books, only the parents, educators, and locally elected school

boards really know what priorities need to be met in their schools.

There is no question that our local school districts are faced with significant challenges in preparing our children for the future. Unfortunately, our current federal education programs falling well short in assisting our communities to succeed. One of the problems is that 35 percent of federal education funds are spent on meeting the operation budgets of the more than 760 federal education programs spread out between 39 different agencies. This means that only 65 cents of each education dollar is actually making it to our classrooms. This diversion of funds is particularly burdensome on rural communities. Southern Missouri's school districts are limited in local funding options and we simply need more of our federal education dollars returned to us.

Another significant problem is the burdensome federal regulations and mandates that tie schools' hands and cut into educators' valuable teaching time. According to Vice President Gore's National Performance Review, if a local school district decides to apply for a Department of Education grant, the entire process takes 26 weeks and 487 steps from beginning to end. That's 6 months and countless hours spent on applying for a grant—all without any guarantee that the funds will be approved. I have heard from teachers in Southern Missouri who personally spend up to three days out of the week writing grants and filing out paperwork. This is time that our teachers—who are already overloaded with large classes and limited resources—could be dedicating to planning lessons, teaching their classes, and reviewing student's work. It seems to me that our education system needs fewer bureaucrats in Washington crunching numbers and dreaming up federal mandates and more teachers in our local schools educating our children.

I introduced legislation that begins to address the problems of funding and over regulation in our nation's education policy. My legislation—known as the: "District Check for Education Act," or simply "Direct Check"—would consolidate several Department of Education competitive grant programs and return federal education dollars directly to the local school or school district based on the number of students served. "Direct Check" funds are not tied to any burdensome federal regulations or mandates, and they can be used for purchasing text books, computers and technology, teachers' salaries, and classroom construction or renovation. Other allowable uses of these funds include literacy programs, job training initiatives, and drug and alcohol programs.

Education is a national priority, but it is a local responsibility. It has always been carried out and implemented at the local level. The bottom line is that no Department of Education bureaucrat who lives and works in the city of Washington, DC or its suburbs can possibly understand the educational needs of our children in rural Southern Missouri. My "Direct Check" bill empowers local school districts by giving them the control and flexibility to use federal education dollars in a way that best meets their priorities for improving the education system for their children. And by freeing up resources and giving them directly to local

school districts, we can help preserve and strengthen our American public education tradition as we head into the 21st Century.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ELLA YON STEVENSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson of Norway, South Carolina. Today, I gladly join the community in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Stevenson was born in Orangeburg County in the town of Norway, South Carolina on March 17, 1899. She is the daughter of the late Glen and Henrietta G. Yon. As a child, she attended Norway Public Schools. Mrs. Stevenson joined Bushy Pond Baptist Church of Norway, South Carolina at a very early age. She enjoyed singing in the choir until her health prevented her from participating. She is strongly committed to her church and community. To this day, Mrs. Stevenson continually offers support to her neighbors, friends, and family.

Mrs. Stevenson cherishes her family. She married the late George W. Stevenson. They had four sons: George Stevenson, Jr., James Stevenson, Authur Stevenson, and Levern Stevenson (all deceased), and two unique daughters, Clara Mae Stevenson Pough and Reather Bell Stevenson Pough. Mrs. Stevenson has 34 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, and 48 great-great grandchildren. She currently resides with her daughter Reather Bell in North, South Carolina.

Please join me in recognizing Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson as she celebrates her 100th birthday today.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT ON THE ACCESSION TO NATO OF POLAND, HUNGARY AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright president over the ceremony marking the final step in the accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to membership in the North Atlantic Alliance. This was a historic occasion as these three former members of the Warsaw Pact, an alliance which was established to counter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, were now joining as full members of this western alliance.

Mr. Speaker, it was most appropriate that the ceremony marking full accession to NATO took place at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. It was under the far-sighted and

thoughtful leadership of President Truman that NATO was established fifty years ago this year. We mark not only the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NATO, but also the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of Soviet dominance in Central and Eastern Europe.

If any one individual deserves credit for the end of communist domination in Europe and for the end of the Soviet empire, Mr. Speaker, it is President Harry Truman. He was the President who made the critical decisions in the early days of the cold war; he was the President under whose leadership the policy of containment was enunciated; and he was the President who established the critical institutions which were the basis of U.S. policy throughout the cold war. His successors—from Dwight Eisenhower to Ronald Reagan and George Bush—were simply implementing the fundamental policy that was enunciated, initiated, and put in place by Harry Truman.

Mr. Speaker, the accession to NATO of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic at the Truman Library was a quintessentially "American" event—the United States Senator who introduced our Secretary of State, my friend and colleague from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, is Polish-American; I had the honor of participating in that event and, as my colleagues know, I am a native of Budapest, Hungary; and, of course, our Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright who presided on this occasion, was born in Prague in the Czech Republic.

The remarks on this festive occasion by our Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker, provide an outstanding statement of the U.S. government policy that underlies this landmark addition of new members to NATO. Secretary Albright's speech also provides an excellent summary of the importance of the first half century of the NATO alliance as well as a discussion of its future. I ask that Secretary Albright's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read and give them thoughtful attention.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you, Senator Mikulski, for that wonderful and personal introduction, and thank you for your great friendship. I want to thank you and your colleagues, Senators Roth and Smith and Representatives Skelton, Lantos, and McCarthy for your bipartisan leadership on behalf of NATO and NATO enlargement. You have helped to make history, because without your support we would not be here today.

Minister Kavan, Minister Martonyi, and Minister Geremek, excellencies from the diplomatic corps, Admiral Gough, General Anderson and other leaders of our armed forces, officials of the Truman Library—thank you for remembering my daughter—honored guests, colleagues, and friends, today is a day of celebration and re-dedication and remembrance and renewal.

Today we recognize in fact what has always been true in spirit. Today we confirm through our actions that the lands of King Stephen and Cardinal Mindszenty, Charles the Fourth and Vaclav Havel, Copernicus and Pope John Paul II reside fully and irrevocably within the Atlantic community for freedom. And to that I say, to quote an old Central European expression. "Hallelujah." (Applause.)

History will record March 12, 1999, as the day the people of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland strode through NATO's open